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ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF RE-OPENING THE HERRING FISHERY IN THE NORTH SEA

by

Hans Frost

September 1983

FOREWORD

The purpose of this report is to produce a preliminary estimate of the economic consequences of re-opening the herring fishery in the North Sea.

Attempts have been made to do this by describing the development in herring landings from the North East Atlantic. Here, the main emphasis has been placed on estimating the amount of consumer herring brought to market in Western Europe since 1962.

Furthermore, the Danish herring sector has been examined with a view to producing an estimate of some of the economic consequences of various quota allocations in the North Sea in this sector.

Because the report was prepared in only two months, the data base used was published statistical information. It must be emphasized that for herring in particular, there is some uncertainty related to the statistical information. The catch figures used are based on information from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). For some years, these figures deviate considerably from those officially reported, but they must be regarded as more reliable. In addition, the ICES figures cover more countries than the EEC's Eurostat, which would have been the alternate source. Information from the Department of Fisheries and Denmark Statistics has also been used.

The apportionment of herring catches between consumer and industry is, for the North Sea, based on information published by Popp Madsen, as well as personal calculations, as evident from comments in the report. The Danish apportionment between industry and consumers is based on figures from the Department of Fisheries.

The economic estimations contained in the report are based on occupational economic considerations and only to a lesser degree on national economic ones.

No business economics calculations, etc., have been carried out since the necessary calculation base available is poor, and because time did not permit the acquisition of usable information.

Fisheries Economic Institute, September 1983.

Hans Frost.

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